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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
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Prem S. PAUL <i>et al.</i>)	Group Art Unit: 1648
)	
Application No.: 10/618,779)	Examiner: Myron G. HILL
)	
Filed: July 15, 2003)	Confirmation No.: 5988
)	
For: POLYNUCLEIC ACIDS ISOLATED)	
FROM A PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE)	
AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME)	
VIRUS (PRRSV) PROTEINS)	
ENCODED BY THE POLYNUCLEIC)	
ACIDS, VACCINES BASED ON THE)	
PROTEINS AND/OR POLYNUCLEIC)	
ACIDS)	

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Official Action, dated July 11, 2006, requires an election of species. Specifically, the Official Action states:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: four different virus isolates - ISU-51, ISU-55, ISU-3927, and ISU1894. The species are independent or distinct because each virus isolate has different properties and variations in the strain are different viruses. Also, Applicant must elect the cell type the virus is grown on because different cell substrates impart different phenotypes to the virus grown, including attenuation, and can influence the titer of virus.

In response to this election requirement, Applicants hereby elect for examination purposes only, ISU-55 as the virus species, and MA-104 as the cell species. Claims 54-56, reproduced below, read on these species. By the present election, Applicants do not concede that the Examiner's characterization of the virus and/or cell isolates is accurate.

The following claims are related to the elected invention: